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20 January 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

20 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Afro-Asian Youth Conference: Nasir appears to be making a special effort to use the Afro-Asian Youth Conference scheduled for 2-8 February for purely UAR propaganda rather than allow pro-Communist elements to dominate. A seven-day UAR youth festival has been arranged to coincide with the conference, and its program seems to be designed to overshadow the conference in some respects. In the conference itself, behind-the-scenes contests seem likely to occur between African and Arab elements and among opposing groups within the Arab world.

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Yemen: Crown Prince Badr is reported to have persuaded the Imam to accept 10,000 tons of Soviet wheat and blocked formal acceptance of 15,000 tons of American wheat until the deal with Moscow was approved. Yemeni

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officials, seeking to anticipate possible famine conditions, had previously estimated that 15,000 tons are the maximum which Yemen's port facilities can unload during the period when both US and Soviet shipments are to arrive. Badr, who is Yemeni foreign minister, pleaded illness for four days to delay the telegram authorizing Yemen's ambassador in Washington to sign a wheat agreement with the US.

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III. THE WEST

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 Argentina: Peronistas and Communists are intensifying their strike efforts to undermine President Frondizi's policies and embarrass him during his visit to Washington which begins on 20 January. An anti-US note has been injected into the agitation. Serious as the strikes are, the military seems capable of controlling the situation. The state of siege ordered on 11 November is still in effect.

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DAILY BRIEF

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR to Host Afro-Asian Youth Conference in February

Cairo is expected to entertain nearly 500 delegates from about 50 countries during the 2-8 February meeting of the Afro-Asian Youth Conference. The meeting, subsidized largely by the UAR Government, is being cosponsored by the UAR Higher Council for Youth Welfare and the permanent secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Council (AAPSC), whose headquarters are in Cairo.

The UAR apparently hopes to monopolize the sessions for its own propaganda purposes and has arranged for a concurrent "UAR youth festival," bringing some 2,500 Syrian youths to Cairo for the event. UAR efforts to dominate the conference will probably meet resistance from several pro-Western and neutralist delegations. The UAR itself will probably be wary of the Communist and pro-Communist delegations, remembering the efforts of such groups to control the full-scale Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference held in Cairo in December 1957.

The youth conference will be followed immediately by the annual council meeting of the AAPSC which, along with its permanent secretariat in Cairo, was formed to act as permanent liaison between "solidarity" movements in various countries.

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III. THE WEST

Argentine Strikers Warned of Firm Measures

In an effort to combat the Peronista- and Communist-inspired agitation and strikes, the Argentine Government has threatened a general mobilization of labor under army control, a step possible under the state of siege in effect since 11 November. The agitation appears to be primarily politically motivated, and aimed at undermining President Frondizi and embarrassing him during his visit to Washington. Recent bitter attacks against the US-backed austerity and stabilization program initiated on 1 January have included the bombing of the USIS office at La Plata on 18 January.

The pro-Peron unions, supported by the Communists, called for a general strike on 17 January allegedly to protest the forceful ouster of sit-down strikers from a government-owned packing plant in Buenos Aires. Some 50 Peronista unions, including many important industrial unions, have supported the strike, cutting off newspapers, transport, and communication facilities in several provincial cities as well as Buenos Aires. Excluded are the railroads, which have been under army control since late November.

The anti-Peronista unions have declared a state of alert but are not expected to join the strike now. These unions controlled almost two thirds of the rank and file before the union elections, which have been under way for several months and have helped confuse the trade union situation.

The military endorses firm action against Communist and Peronista agitation and seems capable of controlling the situation.

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